

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A round pen comprising a plurality of vertical round tubular steel posts provided with a plurality of horizontal top rails of tubular steel, the steel posts including a first end post, a second end post and a plurality of intermediate posts, each intermediate post having a series of "eyes" welded thereon through which cables may pass to connect the posts, the posts being spaced equal distance from one another in a circular or oval arrangement and having lower ends secured in the ground, a top horizontal tubular steel rail extending from the first end post to the next adjacent intermediate post and a top horizontal tubular steel rail extending between each pair of intermediate posts around the circumference of the pen until a top rail extends from the last intermediate post into the second end post, the top rails having ends abutting each other within each of the intermediate posts, the top rails being provided with retaining pins inserted within vertical holes located adjacent the ends of the rails within the intermediate posts to prevent the rails from slipping out of the intermediate rails, a plurality of cables extending through the eyes of all the intermediate posts and being connected at one end to the first end post and at another end to the second end post, and means for tensioning the cables to place the rails in compression and add rigidity to the round pen..

2. A round pen as set forth in Claim 1 wherein each of the steel posts includes an upper end and a lower end, the upper end of all of the intermediate posts being covered with caps, the lower ends of all the posts being embedded in the ground.

3. A round pen as set forth in Claim 1 wherein all of the posts are provided with upper and lower ends, the lower ends of the posts being embedded in the ground and surrounded by concrete, a U-shaped connector connecting from the top of the first end post to the top of the

second end post, the U-shaped connector consisting of a horizontal tubular member having a length equal to the distance between the first and second end posts and being provided with a pair of vertical tubes connected at right angles to the ends of the horizontal member, the vertical tubes having an inner diameter slightly larger than the external diameter of the end posts.

4. A round pen as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the cables are connected to the first end post through a plurality of springs.

5. A method for installing a round pen in the ground which comprises the steps of selecting a plurality of vertical round tubular steel posts, a plurality of horizontal rails of tubular steel and a plurality of cables of sufficient length to traverse the distance from the first end post around the intermediate post and back to the second end post, each intermediate post having a series of eyes welded thereon, fitting the cables through all of the eyes on the intermediate posts and attaching an end of each cable to the first end post, attaching an opposite end of each cable to the second end post through a spring, inserting an end of a horizontal rail into an opening in the first end post and then adjusting the opposite end of the rail into an opening in the next adjacent intermediate post, continuing to insert horizontal rails in all of the intermediate posts until the rails are in abutting relation in all of the intermediate posts, inserting the ends of a horizontal rail in an opening in the second end post and into an opening in the last intermediate post, inserting retaining pins within vertical holes located adjacent the ends of the rails within the intermediate posts to prevent the rails from slipping out of the intermediate rails, placing the cables under tension so that the rails are placed in compression between the posts.

6. A method of installing a round pen in the ground as set forth in Claim 5 including the additional step of placing a U-shaped connector over the ends of the first and second end posts,

the U-shaped connector consisting of a horizontal tubular steel member having a length approximately equal to the distance between the first and second end posts and a pair of vertical tubular members welded at right angles to the end of the horizontal member, the vertical tubular members having an inner diameter slightly in excess of the external diameter of the end posts so that they fit over the posts and whereby the U-shaped connector is placed intension when the cables are in tension.